

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

SCI-06 AEC-11 SPM-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02

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SUBJ: ARIKPO PRESS CONFERENCE AT UNGA

REF: (A) LAGOS 3242 (B) USUN 1354

FOLLOWING ARE NOTES ON ARIKPO PRESS CONFERENCE MADE
BY VOA CORRESPONDENT AND REFERRED TO IN REF B:

PRESS CONFERENCE WITH DR. OKOI ARIKPO, COMMISSIONER FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION TO
THE GENRAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION, TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1974

-- ASSESSMENT OF THE SESSION -- HE FEELS HAPPY ABOUT THE
REACTION OF MOST MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHO HAVE
SPOKEN QUITE CLEARLY THAT MOST COUNTRIES REALIZE THAT THE
PRESENT ECONOMIC ORDER CANNOT CONTINUE FOR MUCH LONGER.
THERE IS A NEED TO REEXAMINE THE WHOLE SYSTEM OF RELATIONS
BETWEEN COUNTRIES AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT.

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SPEAKERS HAVE INDICATED THEY WANT COOPERATION AND NEGOTIA-

TION IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. SPEAKERS HAVE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT THERE IS SOME INEQUALITY IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IN THE WORLD AND SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT. COUNTRIES SEEM TO AGREE IN HIS VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME ARRANGEMENT TO ACHIEVE STABLE PRICES FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTS WHICH ASSURE REGULAR SUPPLIES OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND ASSURE PRODUCERS AN EQUITABLE PRICE. WHAT ONE GROUP OF COUNTRIES REGARD AS EQUITABLE PRICE MIGHT BE UNACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS, HOWEVER, HE IS VERY HOPEFUL THAT ALL AGREE THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG IN THE EXISTING ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO CORRECT IT. WHAT THE SESSION WILL FINALLY ACHIEVE IS DIFFICULT TO SAY, HE SAID. BUT THERE HAS BEEN THE BEGINNING OF WORTHWHILE EFFORTS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD JUST AS OTHER UN DECISIONS HAVE RESULTED IN POSITIVE IMPROVEMENT IN THE POLITICAL FIELD. HE THINKS IT LIKELY THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WILL WORK OUT GUIDELINES WHICH CAN BE ACTED ON IN CONCRETE TERMS BY VARIOUS AGENCIES IN THE UN SYSTEM.

-- OPEC FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT -- NIGERIA SUPPORTS THE IDEA OF A FUND TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE HARDEST HIT. HE SENSES A GENERAL CONSENSUS SO FAR THAT THE FUND SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED NOT BY ONE GROUP OF COUNTRIES BUT BY A WORLD COMMUNITY IN WHICH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS BOTH CONTRIBUTE. NIGERIA SUPPORTS EITHER VIEW. HE WOULD NOT CONFIRM WHAT NIGERIA MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH A FUND SAYING CABINET APPROVAL WAS NECESSARY FIRST. MOST IF NOT ALL OPEC COUNTRIES HAVE ADOPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF A FUND, HE SAID. NIGERIA IS NOT LIKELY TO CONTRIBUTE A LARGE SUM OF MONEY BUT WILL TAKE ACTION TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO WORLD DEVELOPMENT.

-- IS AFRICAN POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AFFECTED BY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS -- AFRICA HAS NOT YET REACHED THAT STAGE BUT IF ANY COUNTRY IS UNABLE TO SATISFY THE BASIC NEEDS OF ITS PEOPLE THEN THAT FACT WOULD BE UNSTABLE. NO AFRICAN COUNTRY HAS REACHED THAT STAGE YET, BUT HE SAID AFRICAN REPS AT THE CURRENT SESSION TELL HIM MANY ARE "PERILOUSLY NEAR" THAT SITUATION E.G. NIGER WHICH SUFFERED A GOVT OVERTHROW YESTERDAY.

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-- KISSINGE SPEECH -- IT WAS "A BRILLIANT SPEECH," BUT VERY FRANKLY THE SITUATION IS SO DESPERATE IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THAT THREATS DO NOT HELP." HE THOUGHT THE SPEECH INSENSITIVE TO MANY DEVELOPING PROBLEMS. " NO SPEECH THAT HAS AN ELEMENT OF THREAT REALLY HELPS IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS."

-- KISSINGER REFERENCE TO RIGHT OF ACCESS TO SUPPLIES

WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION -- THE NIGERIAN SAID THIS ISSUE IS NOT ONE OF RIGHT OF ACCESS. "EVERYBODY HAS ACCESS." THE US GOVT, HE SAID, INFORMED NIGERIA ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO THAT IN FACT THAT THE ARABS DID NOT CARRY OUT THEIR EMBARGO THREAT AFTER ALL. AT THE HEIGHT OF THE EMBARGO, THE U.S. WAS MEETING REGULAR SUPPLIES OF OIL FROM THE ARAB OIL COUNTRIES.

OIL PRICES -- AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN MOST CASES DO NOT OWN THEIR OWN REFINERIES; THUS HAVE NO CONTROL OR SAY ON HOW OIL DISPOSED OF.

NIGERIA REFINES ONLY A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ITS OIL TO SUPPLY OWN NEEDS AND SOME OF NEIGHBORS.

BIG OIL COMPANY ROLE -- THEIR ROLE HAS NOT BEEN GOOD. THEY HAVE NOT COOPERATED INTERNATIONALLY. THEY HAVE BEEN "RATHER SELFISH" AND CASHED IN ON THE DIFFICULTY NOT ONLY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD, BUT THE DEVELOPED WORLD. NIGERIA BELIEVES THAT THOUGH THEY CANNOT BE ELIMINATED IT CAN INCREASE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THEIR PRODUCTION, SALES AND DISTRIBUTION. NIGERIA HOLDS 40 PERCENT NOW IN EQUITY SHARES AND INTENDS TO INCREASE THAT TO 55 PERCENT.

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